



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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REPORT LISTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER "S-K" FISHERY LEGISLATION

A list of 101 results achieved in behalf of domestic fish production and utilization during the fiscal years 1955-1958 inclusive is carried in a report just released by the Department of the Interior. The report is on the fiscal 1958 Saltonstall-Kennedy Act operations for the enhancement of the domestic fishing industry.

The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act provides that an amount equal to 30 percent of the duties received on imported fishery products be devoted to enhancing the domestic fishing industry through exploration, various types of research, and for education on the use of fishery products and by-products. The program is administered by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service.

The results listed cover such widely separated projects as devising methods of improving the quality of fish landed by fishermen, methods of rearing channel catfish, making important discoveries about the chemical composition of fish oil, determining the type of fishery product the customer wants and what the industry should do to give it to him.

Fishery exploration under the Saltonstall-Kennedy program during the period covered in the report included the discovery of the hitherto unknown royal-red shrimp and its habitat off the Florida coast, the discovery of shrimp grounds off the coast of Alaska, the establishing of availability of tuna to longline gear in the Gulf of Maine and in the northwestern Atlantic, the demonstration of yellowfin distribution in the Gulf of Mexico and the availability of hard clams and calico scallops off the west coast of Florida.

In addition there was the development and testing of midwater trawl gear and the practical telemeter which makes the use of such gear possible, thereby opening up a vast new portion of the ocean to further exploration and utilization.

The biological research which the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries performed under the Saltonstall-Kennedy program also covered a variety of subjects, including the use of copper barriers and drill dredges in the control of oyster drills, exploration of other possible drill controls, information vital to the artificial

propagation of oysters and clams, color dyeing of shrimp for the purpose of migration and population studies, information on methods of differentiating between Asian and American races of salmon, improved techniques for determining salmon escapement, studies of sampling methods as a means of determining salmon abundance, research on the New England food fish and industrial fish resources, the relationship of the warmer-than-average water in the Pacific Ocean to the plankton supplies and sardine populations, and variations in the year brood size in Atlantic menhaden.

Technological research discovered why some tuna discolors during the canning process, methods for handling fish to prevent decline in the quality of the produce, determination of which fishery products can best be preserved by nuclear radiation, improvements in refrigeration techniques; it provided information necessary to establish standards of quality for some fishery products, created an inspection program, and developed ways to detect bones in fillets.

Technology also proved the value of fish meal as an additive to animal diets, the value of fish oil in leather tanning and elsewhere and the value of the unsaturated fatty acids in fish oil as a cholesterol depressant in the blood serum.

There were numerous market studies designed to point up geographical areas where fish sales might be promoted, studies showing why the housewife did or did not buy fish, and the type of product which the housewife wanted; there were new markets developed in the pet food and mink food industry for under-utilized fish, new markets found for dungeness crabs and new markets for cocktail shrimp. Aid was given in preventing market gulfs of certain species of fish, ten motion pictures designed to increase the market for fish were produced, and fish cookery demonstrations given to 22,000 school lunch supervisors serving 13,000,000 children a week.

Economic reports were made on segments of the fishing industry, fishing vessel insurance matters were studied, fisherman cooperatives were aided and interstate transportation costs studied.

The market reporting program was strengthened and the buyers and sellers in the various fishery market centers in the country were placed on an equal footing as far as supply and demand information was concerned.

The report is available through the Office of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

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